

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1871**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron**

February 10, 2016

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An act to ~~amend Section 12947 of the Water Code, add Section 30603.2 to the Public Resources Code, relating to desalination,~~ *coastal resources.*

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1871, as amended, Waldron. ~~Desalination.~~ *Coastal resources: development: water supply projects.*

*Existing law, the California Coastal Act of 1976, requires any person wishing to perform or undertake any development in the coastal zone, as defined, in addition to obtaining any other permit required by law from any local government or from any state, regional, or local agency, to obtain a coastal development permit from the local government or California Coastal Commission, as specified.*

*This bill would limit the growth-inducing impacts the commission may consider in its review of a coastal development permit for a water supply project.*

*Existing law, the Cobey-Porter Saline Water Conversion Law, states the policy of this state that desalination projects developed by or for public water entities be given the same opportunities for state assistance and funding as other water supply and reliability projects, and that desalination be consistent with all applicable environmental protection policies in the state. The law provides that it is the intention of the Legislature that the Department of Water Resources shall undertake to find economic and efficient methods of desalting saline water so that*

desalted water may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of the state.

~~This bill would provide that it is the intention of the Legislature that when a state agency considers an application relating to desalination that the agency, when considering alternatives, should consider the cost of those alternatives in order to ensure that project financing does not become significantly more expensive or difficult.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 30603.2 is added to the Public Resources  
2     Code, to read:

3     30603.2. Notwithstanding any other law, if a coastal  
4     development permit for a water supply project is to be obtained  
5     from the commission pursuant to Section 30601 or an action taken  
6     by a local government on a coastal development permit application  
7     for a water supply project is on appeal to the commission pursuant  
8     to Section 30603, and if the commission is considering the  
9     growth-inducing impacts of the water supply project, the  
10    commission shall be limited to considering the following  
11    growth-inducing impacts:

12    (a) How the proposed project augments existing water supplies.

13    (b) How the proposed project increases regional water supply  
14    reliability as a response to drought or climate change impacts.

15    (c) How the proposed project achieves the state policy of  
16    reducing reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as  
17    described in Section 85021 of the Water Code.

18    SECTION 1. ~~Section 12947 of the Water Code is amended to~~  
19    read:

20    12947. (a) ~~The Legislature finds and declares that the growing~~  
21    ~~water needs of the state require the development of cost-effective~~  
22    ~~and efficient water supply technologies. Desalination technology~~  
23    ~~is now feasible to help provide significant new water supplies from~~  
24    ~~seawater, brackish water, and reclaimed water. Desalination~~  
25    ~~technology can also provide an effective means of treating some~~  
26    ~~types of contamination in water supplies. Desalination is consistent~~  
27    ~~with both state water supply and efficiency policy goals, and joint~~

1 ~~state-federal environmental and water policy and principles~~  
2 ~~promoted by the Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program.~~

3 ~~(b) It is the policy of this state that desalination projects~~  
4 ~~developed by or for public water entities be given the same~~  
5 ~~opportunities for state assistance and funding as other water supply~~  
6 ~~and reliability projects, and that desalination be consistent with all~~  
7 ~~applicable environmental protection policies in the state.~~

8 ~~(c) It is the intention of the Legislature that the department shall~~  
9 ~~undertake to find economic and efficient methods of desalting~~  
10 ~~saline water so that desalted water may be made available to help~~  
11 ~~meet the growing water requirements of the state.~~

12 ~~(d) It is the intention of the Legislature that when a state agency~~  
13 ~~considers an application relating to desalination that the agency,~~  
14 ~~when considering alternatives, should consider the cost of those~~  
15 ~~alternatives in order to ensure that project financing does not~~  
16 ~~become significantly more expensive or difficult.~~